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RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 7013  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0595  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0393  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 1020  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 000379

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STATE FOR AF/W  
STATE FOR INR/AA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/13/2016  
TAGS: [ECPS](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [EIND](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#)  
SUBJECT: TELECOM OPERATORS AND 2007 ELECTIONS

Classified By: Acting Consul General William Howe for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

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Summary  
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¶1. (C) Organizations loyal to the Administration are requesting support from Nigeria's major telecommunications operators to support President Obasanjo's bid for a third term. The Movement for National Accommodation and Consensus for Obasanjo's Retention (MONACOR) sent confidential letters to the three major Global System of Communication Operators (GSM) requesting assistance in placing advertisements supporting continuation of Obasanjo's policies and reforms. End Summary.

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Background  
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¶2. (SBU) The Movement for National Accommodation and Consensus for Obasanjo's Retention (MONACOR) is a political organization aimed at amending the Nigerian Constitution to allow President Obasanjo to run for a third term. MONACOR's President and Vice-President are Alh. Salisu Isah Gusau and Adewale Oyedepo. Their provisional headquarters is based in Zamfara State.

¶3. (C) Below is a verbatim text of the letter of introduction sent to Vmobile on February 8.

Begin Text:

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION OF MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL  
ACCOMMODATION AND CONSENSUS FOR OBASANJO'S RETENTION  
(MONACAR)

The above name association wishes to make a formal introduction before you in acknowledgment of your numerous contributions to the political development of our country.

This association consist of male and female youths above 18 years of birth who share common values and dreams drawn

from each of the 36 States of the Federation cutting across such boundaries as political party, religious group, ethnic group etc, that hitherto destroys our unity.

MONACAR is aimed at consolidating democratic values vis-a-vis sustainable development through continuity and longevity. These and other objectives we hope to attain only if we successfully convince the two factors, one; constitutional amendment to favour another tenure of office for the present administration to seek another mandate. Two; to convince his Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo in order to accept the calls of Millions of Nigerian that have been in bondage of the successive administration and via for 2007, if the constitution is amended. That will sustain the on-going reforms and policies.

MONACAR intends to embark on massive mobilization campaigns, conferences, state rallies and six-world press conferences in each of the geopolitical zone through all the democratic channels. With these and other programs, we hope to reach out to all stakeholders and other Nigerians to work towards retaining and expanding the landmarks made in the last six years.

Signed:

Alh. Salisu Isah Gusau (National President), Mr. Dennis Ahmadu (National Secretary), Mr. Okechukwu Njoku (National Organizing Secretary), Ajaezu Ikechukwu (South-East Co-ordinator).

End Text

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LAGOS 00000379 002 OF 002

GSM Operators Campaigning for Obasanjo?

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14. (C) Vmobile Chief Regulatory Officer, J.P. Snijders, said on March 10 that Vmobile would not aid political parties interested in using their organization as a platform for political campaigns, and Vmobile would not support MONACOR. However, he suggested other GSM operators, MTN and Globacom, might send text messages on behalf of the Administration as election campaigning intensifies in coming months. He provided a copy of a second MONACAR letter dated February 8 requesting Vmobile assistance.

15. (C) Below is a Verbatim text of the letter.

Begin Text:

LETTER FOR REQUEST TO PLACE AN ADVERT ON YOUR NETWORK  
PERTAINING TO OUR GROUP AND OBJECTIVES

We wish to seek an advert placement on your network in support of Mr. President's achievements in almost all facets of our economy especially the Telecom sector under which you feature and clamour for his retention to crown his reform efforts and reach out to areas yet uncovered.

We are embarking on national awareness campaigns and wish to use your medium and believe you will be of tremendous assistance being one of the benefactors of the present administration's provision of enabling environment for investment.

Thanks and God bless.

Signed:

Alh. Salisu Isah Gusau (National President), Mr. Dennis Ahmadu (National Secretary), Mr. Okechukwu Njoku (National Organizing Secretary), Ajaezu Ikechukwu (South-East

Co-ordinator).

End Text

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Comment  
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16. (C) Nigerians love their mobile phones, and use of broadcast text messaging is common for everything from campaigning for a social club president to inviting friends to a party. However, the deployment of mobile text messaging is likely to be a first in presidential elections. While the Administration's approach to Vmobile so far has been diplomatic, it remains unclear whether telecom companies will come under undue pressure in the run up to 2007 to deploy their technology to support a Third term for Obasanjo. As the 2007 elections draw near, telecommunications is likely to play an even greater role in spreading campaign messages and agendas across the country. End Comment.  
HOWE